

ASSOCIATED PRESS
18 October 1983

LONDON

BRITISH PLAN LIE-DETECTOR TO SNARE SPIES
BY ED CLANCHE

Britain's security agencies plan to introduce U.S.-style lie-detector tests in an effort to weed out Soviet bloc agents in sensitive departments and halt a string of embarrassing spy scandals.

The British have doubts about the polygraphs' accuracy, but Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's administration does not want to antagonize U.S. intelligence chiefs who suspect the Soviets have penetrated Britain's security establishment, government officials said.

Britain's eight civil service unions, representing 520,000 white-collar government employees, Monday launched a campaign to block the use of the polygraph.

They charged the lie detectors, which monitor signs of stress such as heartbeat rates, would eventually be used in all government departments.

The unions claimed in a pamphlet titled "The Case Against the Polygraph" that lie detectors are easy to beat and "could become the spy's ticket to a civil service career."

Likening the lie-detector tests to "tossing a coin" to determine a subject's guilt or innocence, the Society of Civil and Public Servants said the polygraph screening "will make a mockery of security."

However, Mrs. Thatcher's Conservative government is determined to tighten up security and track down suspect officials in sensitive positions.

A team of senior British security officers has just returned from the United States, where they trained in polygraph techniques under experts from the Central Intelligence Agency and Federal Bureau of Investigation, said officials who asked not to be identified.

The team included security experts from D15, formerly MI5, Britain's domestic counter-intelligence agency.

"The first screenings are expected to start shortly at top secret establishments," one source reported. "If they're successful, they'll be extended to other departments."

The CIA and some British officials believe Soviet infiltrators remain in place in Britain's intelligence agencies.

The security officers were sent to America at the urging of U.S. intelligence agencies alarmed at Britain's failure to spot Soviet agents like Geoffrey Prime.

The former ^Royal Air Force officer operated ^{ed}undetected as a Kremlin spy for 14 years, including several years at the top secret Government Communications Headquarters at Cheltenham in southwest England.

CONTINUED